

### REMARKS

By the above amendments, withdrawn claims 9-15 and rejected claims 16-18 have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, only allowed claims remain in the application.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application as a whole is now in condition for allowance. That is, all of the rejections raised by the Examiner in the final Office Action of April 13, 2004 have been rendered moot. Indication of such is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to pass the case to issue. If the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Seigo MURAKAMI et al.

By: 

Nils E. Pedersen  
Registration No. 33,145  
Attorney for Applicants

NEP/krp  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
May 28, 2004